

As a consumer and producer of digital content, I strongly object to the proposed Broadcast Flag. Existing laws protect me from mass illegal distribution, while personal rights ensure that my art gets exposure.

The proposed "solution" is not a solution, it's an introduction of complexity and costs that will make more work for and give significant advantage to larger corporations, where already there's a level playing field.

Quality and diversity are my main tools for competition and audience attention, thwarting them with expensive technological mandates just doesn't make sense. They would hamper the flexibility we had for future generations. This isn't right, and we shouldn't have to debate it.

Large corporations are simply trying to manipulate policy in order to continue filling their own coffers without adapting to natural societal change.

Did book publishers and libraries vanish when the copier was made? Did Hollywood worsen or improve when movie duplication was possible? Have commercials vanished since television shows could be taped off the air? History is littered with such bold claims that are proven to be untrue; this is the same old story.

I am a law-abiding consumer who believes that piracy should be prevented and prosecuted. However, if theoretical prevention comes at the cost of prohibiting me from making legal, personal use of my content, then the FCC should be working to protect all consumers rather than enable those who would restrict consumer rights. In the case of the broadcast flag, it will have little effect on piracy. Real pirates have the resources and the distribution channels to work around technological hinderances. By prohibiting common consumers to make legal, personal copies, they're only recourse will be to turn to the content producer or the pirates. Guess who will be cheaper.

I urge you to require the content industry to demonstrate that its proposed technologies will allow for all legal uses and will actually achieve the stated goal of preventing piracy. If they cannot, I urge you not to mandate the broadcast flag.